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ABSTRACT

This book tells the stories of four urban middle schools that have undergone deep transformation while participating in the Middle Grades Improvement Program (MGIP), an initiative that has nurtured fundamental change in school climate, structure and classroom practice in 16 urban districts and 65 schools in Indiana. The support of the Lilly Endowment has been instrumental in bringing about educational change tailored to the needs of the developing adolescent and the school community. Portraits of change in four schools tell an inspiring story of expanding opportunity for children presently on the margins of public education in the United States. To help readers understand some of the specific issues involved in middle school restructuring, nine principles of change at the middle school level are presented. These principles make it clear that changing middle schools requires multifaceted intervention strategies, external and internal change agents, and support from the local community. (Contains 52 references.) (SLD)

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